THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, As per NTP '99, it has been decided to convert PCOs, wherever justified, into Public Tele Info Centres having multimedia capability, which would include Internet facility. This work has been initiated and whenever demand for Internet connection is received, it shall be provided subject to technical feasibility.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

Pending Applications for STD/ISD/PCO Booths in Uttar Pradesh

†4612. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pending applications for STD/ISD telephones and PCO booths in all the telecom circles of Uttar Pradesh, Circle-wise;

(b) the name of the circles where Telephone Advisory Committees have been constituted for providing such booths;

(c) The number of persons applied for such type of booths in various regions of Uttar Pradesh during the last five years;

(d) the reasons for not accepting their applications for such type of booths; and

(e) the effective steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The number of applications pending for STD/ISD/PCOs, telecom circle-wise of Uttar Pradesh is as given below:—

Name of the telecome circle	No. of application pending
U.P. (East)	662
U.P. (West)	2467

(b) Sir, Telephone Advisory Committee's functions do not include sanction of STD/ISD booths, However, STD/PCO committee have

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

been abolished and now STD/ISD PCOs are provided to all the eligible applicants as per their registration.

(c) In Uttar Pradesh 39,020 persons had applied for PCO booths during the last three years.

(d) and (e) The registration of application for allotment of PCOs is a continous process. Applications from all the eligible persons are accepted and allotment is made to eligible candidates as per their registration.

Telephone connection in U.P. villages

4613. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) how many villages have been connected by telephones till date and its percentage to the total;

(b) by when the remaining villages are proposed to be covered; and

(c) whether any target date has been fixed for covering U.P. villages in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Out of 607, 491 villages in the country, 374,605 villages, *i.e.* 61.7% have been provided with public telephone facilities till 31st March 2000.

(b) and (c) All the remaining 232,886 villages, including those in Uttar Pradesh will be covered progressively by March 2002.

Telephone on demand in Gujarat

†4614. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government provides telephone on damend in Delhi;

(b) if so, the number of people to whom telephone

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.